

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11, 24 and 53 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 16-22 and 48-51 as indicated in the following list of Pending Claims.

PENDING CLAIMS

1 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended): The A stent assembly of claim 15 comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which is formed of a plurality of ring sections, which has at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has at least one cover connecting member with a penetrating element on a connecting support member; and

b) a stent cover which is disposed over at least a portion of the tubular stent body, which is secured to the tubular stent body by a cover connecting member with a penetrating element of the cover connector extending through the stent cover wherein the cover and which has an outer surface, and an inner surface adjacent a surface of the tubular body, and the penetrating element of the cover connector is being positioned adjacent the outer surface of the stent cover in the closed configuration.

17. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 53 16 wherein the cover disposed over the tubular stent body has an outer surface, and an inner surface adjacent a surface of the tubular stent body, and the penetrating element of the cover

connector is positioned adjacent the outer surface of the cover in the closed configuration.

18. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover on the stent forms a cylinder with the a first longitudinally oriented edge abutting the a second longitudinally oriented edge.

19. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover on the stent forms a cylinder with the a first longitudinally oriented edge overlapping the a second longitudinally oriented edge.

P, 20. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 17 wherein the cover connector has two penetration elements, a first penetration element which extends through the cover at a first location on the cover adjacent to the first edge, and the a second penetrtrion element which extends through the cover at a second location on the cover adjacent to the second edge.

21. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim ~~53~~ 16 wherein the cover on the stent extends from the first end of the stent to the second end of the stent.

22. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim ~~53~~ 16 wherein the cover is formed of biocompatible, non-thrombogenic material.

23 - 47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended): The stent assembly of claim ~~53~~ 16 wherein at least the first one ring section of at and end of the tubular stent body has undulations

and at least one ring connecting member ~~extending~~ extends between the first at least one ring section and an adjacent ring section.

49. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 53 48 wherein the stent cover is ^{further} secured to the body of the stent by undulations of the second ring section which extend over a second end portion of the stent cover.

50. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim 53 16 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between the first ring section to an adjacent intermediate ring section.

51. (Currently amended): The stent assembly of claim ~~53~~ 16 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between the second ring section and an adjacent intermediate ring section.

52 - 56. (Canceled)
